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# Congressman vows speedy action on eminent domain restrictions

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WASHINGTON -- The chairman of a key congressional panel vowed speedy action Thursday on a bill to curb the impact of a Supreme Court ruling on a controversial Connecticut eminent domain case.

"The Court set a precedent that will haunt the American people for decades to come," House Resources Committee Chairman Richard W. Pombo, R-Calif., said at a hearing on the measure.

Pombo co-sponsored a bill that would ban federal economic development funding for state and local government construction projects that rely on the high court's June decision in *Kelo v. the City of New London*.

The justices ruled that the city of New London could seize homes in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood to make way for a private riverfront development that will include a hotel and convention center.

The ruling paves the way for local governments to use eminent domain to take homes for private developments that enhance public revenue.

"Legislation to address the implications of *Kelo* is critically important and time sensitive," Pombo said in a statement.

House and Senate Republican leaders are pushing legislation in both chambers to hamper such eminent domain seizures.

More than two dozen states, including Connecticut, are also considering measures to prevent government seizure of private property for private development. The justices in the *Kelo* case said states were free to pass laws restricting eminent domain powers.

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